

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02916 261659Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----261701Z 127108 /42  
O 261426Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5873

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2916

NODIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM CHARGE

E.O. GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, US  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PERES

1. MAPAM MK DOV ZAKIN HAS ASKED US TO CONSIDER A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PERES. HE FIRST RAISED THIS ON APRIL 22 WITH CRUMP, WHO RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US IN VIEW OF THE GREAT SENSITIVITY ABOUT ALLEGED U.S. INFLUENCE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ZAKIN REPLIED THAT WE MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE INFLUENCE ON ISRAELI VOTERS OF U.S. VIEWS AND THAT A PUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT WOULD BE WORTH THREE SEATS TO PERES. CRUMP ASKED WHETHER HIS REQUEST REFLECTED PERES' WISHES AND ZAKIN SAID THAT IT DID NOT BUT THAT HE PLANNED TO RAISE IT WITH PERES.

2. ZAKIN HAS NOW BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CRUMP AGAIN AND REPORTED THAT HE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH PERES AT A MEETING TODAY. AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION, ZAKIN REPORTS THAT PERES IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA. WHILE THEY WOULD LEAVE TO US THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02916 261659Z

TIMING AND MODALITIES OF SUCH A STATEMENT, PERES BELIEVES THAT IT COULD MOST USEFULLY BE MADE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS NEXT MONTH.

3. CRUMP REPLIED THAT ZAKIN'S REQUEST WOULD BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BUT THAT PERES SHOULD

UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS IN NO WAY A PROMISE OF SUPPORT. ZAKIN REPLIED THAT PERES UNDERSTANDS THAT ("HE WAS NOT BORN YESTERDAY") BUT IN ANY CASE IS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF. PERES SAID, ACCORDING TO ZAKIN, THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE ISRAELI VOTERS TO KNOW THAT THE U.S. IS BEHIND HIM.

4. COMMENT: AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED, I RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY SUCH STATEMENT. PERES AND ZAKIN ARE PROBABLY ACCURATE IN THEIR ESTIMATE THAT A STATEMENT WOULD HAVE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON ISRAELI VOTERS, AND WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE TO US THAT THE PROBABLE NEXT PRIME MINISTER BE AWARE OF THE EMBASSY'S ROLE IN HELPING HIM. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE IN FOREIGN ELECTIONS IN GENERAL NOR WOULD IT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR INSISTENCE THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS REMAIN UNINVOLVED IN THE AMERICAN ELECTION PROCESS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, IS, US, (PERES, SHIMON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009